## CONDITIONS FOUND IN DEPARTMENT STORES BY THE CHICAGO VICE COMMISSION

*Instances Related Where Employers, Superintendents and Others Were Responsible for the Downfall of Salesgirls—The Importance of the Suppressed "Key" to the Report of the Vice Commission.*

The importance of the "key" to the report of the Chicago Vice Commission can easily be understood when reference to department stores are read.

The report gives instances of temptations to salesgirls in department stores, and in each instance the Commission knew which department store was referred to. Instead of naming the stores, however, the name of each would be left out, and letters and figures substituted—like (X985b) for example.

We do not know why the "key" was suppressed. The only reason given that we have seen was that it might subject some owners of property in the levee to blackmail.

Nor do we know why the postoffice department of the U. S. government barred the report from the mails. That may make an interesting story when the real reasons are known and made public.

But we can understand why the "key" would be suppressed by the advertising papers even if they had it—especially the key to that part of the report that shows up the shame of the department stores.

The owners of these stores are big advertisers, you know.

And big advertisers seem to have a pull with the newspapers that grow rich out of advertising receipts.

They must have a pull, for even when an accident happens in a department store the name of the store isn't mentioned.

Not long ago a clerk dropped dead in some store in Chicago. We don't know which one it was, for The Day Book wasn't on earth at that time, and all the dailies did was to give the man's name, and age and say that he "dropped dead in a State street store."

It isn't very nice, you know, for anybody to drop dead in the store of a big advertiser—so it isn't mentioned in the papers.

From what the Vice Commission reports on some of these